

September 30, 1981

Ralph Peterson

Services for Ralph (Swede) Peterson, 62, retired Groton area farmer were held at 2 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 24, at the Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Groton with the Rev. F. Philip Strain officiating.

Burial was in the Groton Union Cemetery. The Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Peterson died of a heart attack Sunday, Sept. 20, at Evanston, Wyo. At the time of Mr. Peterson's sudden death, he, his wife Elvera and daughter Judy were on the second day of a three week trip to California to celebrate their 35th wedding anniversary with daughter Dorothy and family in Westminster, Calif.

Casketbearers were Arnold Bahr, Donald Bartz, Carroll Clocksene, Tom Paepke, Orville Schaller and Dallas Sombke. Mrs. John Gibbs, organist, accompanied the congregation as they sang "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"; "Rock of Ages"; and "My Faith Looks Up to Thee."

Ushers were Gerald Osterman and Richard Dresbach.

Attending in a group were members of the American Legion and Legion Auxiliary.

Ralph Peterson was born December 5, 1918, at Groton. He grew up here and served in the U.S. Army during World War II from 1942 to 1945. Following his discharge, he returned to this area and married Elvera Schley October 5, 1946, at Stratford. The couple lived at Stratford for five years and then farmed in the Groton area until his retirement. He was a member of the Feather and Fin Club, Groton, and the Elks Lodge in Aberdeen. He was a member of the Groton American Legion, a past commander of the American Legion of Stratford and was a former East Hanson Township supervisor.

Survivors include his widow, two daughters, Mrs. James (Dorothy) Mattingly, Westminster, Calif.; and Judy Peterson, Fridley, Minn.; one sister, Mrs. Lola Blank, Aberdeen; and one granddaughter, Carolyn Mattingly.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother.